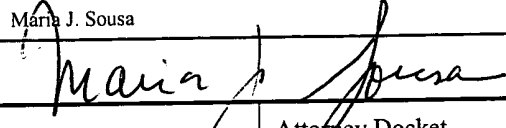


<b>Express Mail No. EU 265085473 US</b>			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.			
Typed or Printed Name	Maria J. Sousa		
Signature		Date	September 24, 2003
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b>  Address to: BOX: Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450		Attorney Docket	GUID-008CON2
		First Named Inventor	Federico J. Benetti
		Application Number	Unassigned
		Filing Date	Herewith
		Group Art Unit	Unassigned
		Examiner Name	Unassigned
		Title	Xyphoid Access for Cardiac Surgical Procedures.

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted for the Examiner's consideration.

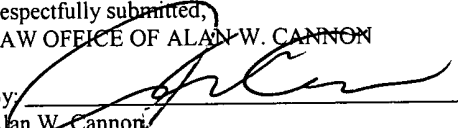
A Form PTO-1449 listing the references accompany this paper. Applicants would appreciate the Examiner's initialing and returning the form to indicate that the references have been reviewed and made of record. Copies of the references identified herein which were disclosed in parent applications Serial No. 09/757,128, filed January 8, 2001 which is a Continuation of Serial No. 09/071,757, filed May 1,1998 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,199,556); are not included herein, pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. Section 1.98(d).

This Information Disclosure Statement is not intended as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that any one of the above references constitutes prior art to the present application within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §102.

Date: September 24, 2003

LAW OFFICE OF ALAN W. CANNON  
 834 South Wolfe Road  
 Sunnyvale, CA 94086  
 Telephone: (408) 736-3554  
 Facsimile: (408) 736-3564

Respectfully submitted,  
 LAW OFFICE OF ALAN W. CANNON

By:   
 Alan W. Cannon  
 Registration No. 34,977

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> Form PTO-1449 (Modified) (Use several sheets if necessary)	ATTY. DOCKET NO. <b>GUID008CON2</b>	SERIAL NO. Unassigned
	APPLICANT <b>Federico J. Benetti, et al.</b>	
	FILING DATE Herewith	GROUP Unassigned

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	A1	3,882,855	05/13/75	Schulte et al.	128	20	November 12, 1973
	A2	4,048,987	09/20/77	Hurson	128	20	July 26, 1974
	A3	4,049,000	09/20/77	Williams	128	276	August 1, 1975
	A4	4,226,228	10/07/80	Shin et al.	128	20	November 2, 1978
	A5	4,421,107	12/20/83	Estes et al.	128	20	October 15, 1980
	A6	4,434,791	03/06/84	Darnell	128	20	March 15, 1982
	A7	4,492,229	01/28/85	Grunwald	128	303	September 3, 1982
	A8	4,627,421	12/09/86	Symbas et al.	128	20	August 3, 1984
	A9	4,702,230	10/27/87	Pelta	128	20	December 8, 1986
	A10	4,726,356	02/23/88	Santilli et al.	128	20	November 12, 1985
	A11	4,852,552	08/01/89	Chaux	128	20	September 3, 1987
	A12	4,865,019	09/12/89	Phillips	128	20	September 12, 1989
	A13	4,949,707	08/21/90	LeVahn et al.	128	20	January 11, 1988
	A14	4,971,037	11/20/90	Pelta	128	20	September 19, 1988
	A15	4,993,862	02/19/91	Pelta	403	59	August 16, 1989
	A16	5,025,779	06/25/91	Bugge	128	20	August 16, 1989
	A17	5,052,373	10/01/91	Michelson	128	20	April 10, 1990
	A18	5,080,088	01/14/92	LeVahn	128	20	November 9, 1987
	A19	5,159,921	11/03/92	Hoover	128	20	November 27, 1990
	A20	Re 34,150	12/29/92	Santilli, deceased et al.	128	20	February 22, 1990
	A21	5,306,234	04/26/94	Johnson	604	49	March 23, 1993
	A22	5,520,610	05/28/96	Giglio et al.	600	233	August 2, 1993

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> Form PTO-1449 (Modified) <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	<b>ATTY. DOCKET NO.</b> <b>GUID008CON2</b>	<b>SERIAL NO.</b> <b>Unassigned</b>
	<b>APPLICANT</b> <b>Federico J. Benetti, et al.</b>	
	<b>FILING DATE</b> <b>Herewith</b>	<b>GROUP</b> <b>Unassigned</b>

	A23	5,727,569	03/1998	Benetti et al.	128	898	February 20, 1996
	A24	5,730,757	03/24/98	Benetti et al.	606	198	February 20, 1996
	A25	5,772,583	06/30/98	Wright et al.	600	232	December 29, 1995
	A26	5,879,291	03/09/99	Kolata et al.	600	227	October 8, 1997
	A27	5,882,299	03/16/99	Rastegar et al.	600	232	January 31, 1997
	A28	5,908,382	06/01/99	Koros et al.	600	232	July 8, 1998
	A29	5,944,736	08/31/99	Taylor et al.	606	198	July 30, 1997
	A30	5,947,896	09/07/99	Sherts et al.	600	229	September 20, 1996
	A31	5,967,972	10/19/99	Santilli et al.	600	232	March 27, 1998
	A32	5,976,171	11/02/99	Taylor	606	198	March 20, 1996
	A33	5,976,080	11/02/99	Farascioni	600	213	September 19, 1997
	A34	5,984,867	11/16/99	Deckman et al.	600	232	August 15, 1997
	A35	6,036,641	03/14/00	Taylor et al.	600	231	September 16, 1997
	A36	6,199,556	03/13/00	Benetti et al.	128	898	May 1, 1998

<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
<b>EXAMINER:</b> Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> Form PTO-1449 (Modified) <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	ATTY. DOCKET NO. <b>GUID008CON2</b>	SERIAL NO. <b>Unassigned</b>
	APPLICANT <b>Federico J. Benetti, et al.</b>	
	FILING DATE <b>Herewith</b>	GROUP <b>Unassigned</b>

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translati n	
							Yes	No
	B1	473.451	01/13/15	French			X	
	B2	168,216	09/01/21	Great Britain				
	B3	GB 2 267 827	12/22/93	United Kingdom				
	B4	WO 97/32514 A2	09/12/97	PCT				
	B5	WO 97/32514 A3	09/12/97	PCT				
	B6	EP 0 803 228 A1	10/29/97	EP				
	B7	WO 99/09892	03/04/99	PCT				
	B8	WO 00/10466	03/02/00	PCT				

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b> Form PTO-1449 (Modified) (Use several sheets if necessary)	<b>ATTY. DOCKET NO.</b> GUID008CON2	<b>SERIAL NO.</b> Unassigned
	<b>APPLICANT</b> Federico J. Benetti, et al.	
	<b>FILING DATE</b> Herewith	<b>GROUP</b> Unassigned

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		
C1	Ancalmo, N. and J. L. Ochsner: "A Modified Sternal Retractor," Ann. Thorac. Surg. 21 (1976) 174	
C2	Angelini, G.D., M.D. et al., "A Fiber-Optic Retractor for Harvesting the Internal Mammary Artery," Ann. Thorac. Surg. (1990; 50:314-5)	
C3	Antinori, C., et al., "A Method of Retraction During Reoperative Coronary Operations Using the Favaloro Retractor," The Society of Thoracic Surgeons: 1989	
C4	Beg, R.A., "Internal Mammary Retractor," Ann Thorac. Surg. 39 (1985) 286-287	
C5	Campalani, G., M.D., et al., "A New Self-retaining Internal Mammary Artery Retractor," J. Cardiovas. Surg. 28, 1987	
C6	Chaux, A. and Blanche, C., "A New Concept in Sternal Retraction: Applications for Internal Mammary Artery Dissection and Valve Replacement Surgery," Ann. Thorac. Surg. 42 (1986) 473-474	
C7	Delacroix-Chevalier Surgical Instruments, IMA Saving Packages Brochure	
C8	Guzman, F. M.D. et al., "Transient Radial Nerve Injury Related to the Use of A Self Retraining Retractor for Internal Mammary Artery Dissection," J. Cardiovasc Surg. 30, 1989	
C9	Itoh, Toshiaki, M.D., et al., "New Modification of a Mammary Artery Retractor," Ann. Thorac. Surg. 1994; 57:1670-1	
C10	McKeown, P. P., et al., "A Modified Sternal Retractor for Exposure of the Internal Mammary Artery," Ann. Thorac. Surg. 32 (1981) 619	
C11	Phillips, S. J., M.D. et al., "A Versatile Retractor for Use in Harvesting the Internal Mammary Artery and Performing Standard Cardiac Operations," J. Thorac. Cardiovasc. Surg. (1989; 97:633-5)	
C12	Pilling Surgical Instruments, A Rusch International Company Brochure	
C13	Pittman, J. M.D., et al., "Improved Visualization of the Internal Mammary Artery with a New Retractor System," Ann. Thorac. Surg., 1989; 48:869-70	
C14	Roux, D., M.D., et al., "Internal mammary Artery Dissection: A Three Dimensional Sternal Retractor," J. Cardiovasc. Surg., 1989; 30:996-7	
C15	USSC Cardiovascular Thora-Lift J, United States Surgical Corporation, Norwalk, Connecticut, Product Brochure	
C16	Vincent, J.G., "A Compact Single Post Internal Mammary Artery Dissection Retractor," Eur. J. Cardio-Thor. Surg. 3 (1989) 276-277	

F:\DOCUMENT\GUID\008CON\Form PTO-1449.jpj.wpd.doc

<b>EXAMINER</b>	<b>DATE CONSIDERED</b>
<b>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</b>	